



Branching Out

April 3, 2009

The mission of Three Rivers Environmental Educators is to promote collaboration of resources and provide networking opportunities for environmental educators in the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula areas of Virginia.

TREE meetings:

Next meeting April 21, 11 am, at beautiful Stratford Hall, 483 Great House Road, Montross VA. We will get a special tour of the mansion, and have a chance to walk the nature trails or go down to find shark's teeth on the fossil beach. Please bring a lunch. Save resources by bringing your own water bottle or mug. Visit their website at www.stratfordhall.org

Local Events:

April Programs at Friends of the Rappahannock

April 4 Spring Wildflower Hike

University of Mary Washington Professor Michael Killian will lead this easy interpretive hike along our trails in the riverside forest buffer. It's the perfect time of year to catch our local wildflowers in full splendor. You will learn how to identify these little beauties and some of the stories behind their names. 10 am-12 pm. *Rain or shine*. The cost is \$5 for an individual and \$15 for a family (up to four people). Pre-registration required, call 540-373-3448 to register.

April 11 Weed Warriors

Come out to help FOR keep its natural area pristine! FOR has identified over 12 species of invasive plants on its property, and we need volunteer help to keep them at bay. Join them for a morning session of weed management and learn about how to keep our river ecosystems native. 9 am-12 pm. **Free**. Pre-registration required, call 540-373-3448 to register.

April 25 Spring River Cleanup

Join us for a morning of picking up trash along the River and local streams. They will provide supplies, site map, and lunch—be prepared to drive to your site. If you have a truck, please bring it to haul trash! Pre-registration required. Adult supervision of youth under 16 required. *Rain or shine*. **Free**. Pre-registration required, call 540-373-3448 to register.

The Northern Neck Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society Walks for April

APRIL 17, Friday, 2-5pm

Poplar Ridge Nursery

Grasses/Plants Retail Sales

APRIL 18, Saturday, 10am

Hickory Hollow Nature Preserve

Spring Ephemerals Walk

Please check the Virginia Native Plant Society Website for information
<http://www.vnps.org/membform.pdf>.

Earth Day at Belle Isle State Park

On April 18 from 9 am to noon the park will be the site of Earth Day at Belle Isle. Representatives from Master Naturalists, Native Plant Society, SAIF Water, and others will have displays and activities. The G7s from Montross Middle School Community Problem Solvers will help attendees make bags from T-shirts at no extra cost to the first 50 people. Cost is \$2 per person, with a maximum of \$6 per family.

Invasive Species Workshop

Saturday, April 25, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm, Beale Memorial Baptist Church, Tappahannock, Virginia. Over 5,000 introduced plant species are now destroying habitat and you can help make a difference. Learn how to identify introduced invasive plants and what actions can safely be taken to reduce competition with native species. There is a \$5 charge which covers lunch and materials. Call Tidewater RC&D for details and to register. 804-443-1118. Registration required by April 17th.

Water Stewardship: Living Shorelines & Rain Barrels

June 18, 2009 (1-5 PM)

Longwood University's Hull Springs Farm will conduct a 4-hour workshop for educators that will explore many aspects of protecting water quality and aquatic habitats. We will visit an award-winning Living Shorelines marsh, look for resident animals, and help plant marsh grasses. Living Shorelines, a Chesapeake Bay restoration effort, is an environmentally friendly way to control erosion while providing habitat for shoreline wildlife. We will discuss how protecting shorelines is an important regional and watershed issue. Participants will also make a functioning rain barrel from a recycled pickle barrel that they will take home. They will learn how to plan educational rain barrel workshops in their own schools and communities. They will also receive a CD with watershed and rain barrel presentations, plus a copy of Virginia's Water Resources: A Tool for Teachers correlated to Virginia's Standards of Learning (SOL). It features information and activities for teachers to support interdisciplinary and problem-based teaching about watersheds, water quality, stewardship, and management issues. Workshop is open to teachers, teachers-in-training, and natural resource professionals. Dress appropriately for the weather and outdoor activities. \$47.00 (includes finished rain barrel, Virginia's Water Resources: A Tool for Teachers, optional canoe trip, and other materials) Pre-registration is required by June 9, 2009 by calling Bobbie Burton at 804-472-2621 (email: hullspringsfarm@longwood.edu)

For more information: www.longwood.edu/hullspringsfarm/

Other Events:

The Virginia Forestry Association will host a workshop on Project Learning Tree's newest secondary module, *Global Connections: Forests of the World*, on Friday, April 24, from 9 a.m. until noon at the Norfolk Waterside Marriott. This module's activities are especially useful for life science, world geography, civics and economics, AP environmental science, AP biology, and agriculture classes. The workshop is free, but teachers must pre-register. More information on the *Global Connections: Forests of the World* module is available at http://www.plt.org/cms/pages/21_21_17.html.

Habitat Partners© Workshop to Plan a Demo Garden at Merrimac Farm

Friday, April 17, 2009

This is a hands-on training from 9:00 a.m - 3:00 p.m. that will focus on how to design a habitat that attracts butterflies, birds and other wildlife. Instruction will include discussion and activities that illustrate how these design features can be maximized for their educational value to students and other groups. The material will be especially useful to teachers and other educators who are interested in learning how to plan a schoolyard habitat or other demonstration garden. During the training, participants will work in teams to draw a habitat site plan to scale and develop a plant list using native species adapted for the area. After the training, participants will have an opportunity to sign-up for a planting day in Fall 2009 to install the garden that was designed during the workshop. Participants are encouraged to involve students in both the planting project and its subsequent use as a learning site for ongoing "Meaningful Watershed Educational field Experiences." (MWEE).

Free

How to register for this Training/

Registration will be available at the Prince William Conservation Alliance web site at

<http://www.pwconserve.org/events/index.html#habitatpartners>

For more information: www.pwconserve.org

EstuaryLive 2009 ~ Online

On May 1st, join naturalists from around the country to explore our estuaries. EstuaryLive is a free, live, interactive field trip through our nation's estuaries. Participants have an opportunity to submit questions directly to field trip leaders during the broadcast. This year's program will feature segments from three of NOAA's National Estuarine Research Reserves: Hudson River (New York), South Slough (Oregon), and Padilla Bay (Washington). Included will be a discussion of the impacts of global climate change on our coastal ecosystems.

<http://www.estuaries.gov>

Wetland Stewardship

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Educators will learn how wetlands differ from in-stream flow bodies of water through habitat identification through the DGIF Wildlife Mapping program and training through the Wonders of Wetlands curriculum. This workshop will be held at Three Lakes Nature Center in Henrico County.

Free

No

How to register for this Training/

Email Stephanie Feaser at srfeaser@deq.virginia.gov to register for this workshop.

For more information: www.vanaturally.com

Project WILD and Underground Facilitator Training

May 20 – 21, 2009

This training will be held at Douthat State Park. For more information contact Suzie Gilley at suzie.gilley@dgif.virginia.gov or (804) 367-0188 or Carol Zokaite at carol.zokaite@dcr.virginia.gov or (540) 831-4057.

Free Tools and other Cool Stuff

Free Earth Science/Sustainability Resources from PBS Kids

The PBS Kids website recently added two new resources that are available for free to the public.

- **The Greens Activity Guide** is aimed at 9 – 12 year olds to help them explore the concepts of sustainability through introducing topics such as recycling, what they can do to slow global warming, and reduce junk mail. Go to: <http://meetthegreens.pbskids.org/features>
- **Curious George** offers earth science activities for preK-2 children to help them make their own discoveries about recycling, wind, water drops, and the properties of soil and sand. Go to: <http://pbskids.org/curiousgeorge/parentsteachers/activities>

Grants, Volunteers, and Funding:

Funds for Puppet Theater Projects

Jim Henson Foundation

The Jim Henson Foundation awards grants for the creation and development of innovative works of puppet theater. Project grants of \$5,000 are awarded for the continued development and production of new works ready to be presented in the coming year. Seed grants of \$2,000 are provided for the development and workshopping of pieces in the earlier stages of creation. The Foundation also offers grants of \$3,000 for the development of new and innovative work specifically for children and families. Applications for international collaborations are accepted, but the primary artist and fiscal sponsor must be American. Projects that will only take place outside of the United States are not eligible for funding. The deadline for letters of intent is April 24, 2009; invited proposals are due September 14, 2009. Visit the website listed above for application guidelines.

Jobs

Summer Programs Education Specialist, VIMS

The Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in Virginia, part of the NERRS network of protected areas established for long term research, education, and stewardship is seeking a knowledgeable and energetic educator to serve as a Summer Program Educator. This is a 40 hour/week, temporary position running June - mid August. Working closely with the Education Coordinator and Education Specialist, this person will be responsible for:

Supporting the planning and implementation of the Reserve's five summer camp programs, including week-long overnight camp to the Eastern Shore lab

Working with education staff to set camp schedules, check students in and out of camp, prep supplies for each day's activities, transport gear and students to different field sites, etc.

Assisting with both lab and field based environmental education programs for students in grades 1-8 including but not limited to canoe, vessel, and wading trips

Supporting other education programs such as the Discovery Lab series and professional development for local teachers

Assisting in gear preparation, maintenance of aquariums, and receive all necessary safety requirements for the position

If interested in the position, please send a cover letter and resume by April 10th to:

Sarah McGuire, VIMS
P.O. Box 1346, Gloucester Point, VA 23062
Fax: 804-684-7120
Email: mcguire@vims.edu

Director of Communications

International Council on Clean Transportation, Washington, DC

The International Council on Clean Transportation is a global network of vehicle technology and policy experts who provide technical analysis and policy recommendations to reduce air pollution and carbon emissions in the transportation sector. We work closely with governments in the world's top ten vehicle markets (US, Europe, Japan, Mexico, Brazil, India, China, South Korea), and are expanding rapidly to meet growing demand for our services.

ICCT is seeking an energetic, creative and web-savvy Communications Director to support our work globally. The Communications Director will be charged with developing strategies that effectively deliver our world-class research and analysis to key target audiences; the Director will also be responsible for building the ICCT brand and positioning the organization for success. The position is located in the Washington, DC office three blocks from Metro Center.

Details:

Annual salary will be in the range of \$75,000 to \$105,000 depending on experience. A generous benefits package is provided, including a 5% match for retirement; health, vision, dental, and life insurance; and vacation. The position is located in downtown Washington DC, close to McPhearson Square. The position will require some international and domestic travel, likely up to six travel weeks per year.

Please send a resume, cover letter summarizing your interests and qualifications, a writing sample, name and contact information of three references (letters not necessary), and salary expectations to jobs@theicct.org. Please put the position name in the subject of your e-mail. Candidates will be considered on a first come, first served basis and the position will remain open until filled. Please do not contact our offices, we will contact any candidates that are deemed qualified.

Please visit our website for additional position listings in our Washington DC and San Francisco offices. www.theicct.org.

Communications and Outreach Coordinator

Chesapeake Bay NGO Coalition, National Wildlife Foundation

We seek a qualified individual to be the Communications and Outreach Coordinator. This person will be responsible for leading the recruitment and outreach effort to build the membership among local, regional and national NGO's for the Chesapeake Bay Watershed NGO coalition. In addition, this person will be responsible for coordinating the external communications of the coalition with coalition members and the media. This position will be

responsible for coordinating campaign activities on multiple levels with numerous individuals in various organizations and locations.

Specifically, the Communications and Outreach Coordinator will assist the coalition manager on planning and development of grassroots/grasstops outreach, political strategy, media outreach, organizing of conferences and workshops, research, writing and grant reporting.

- Qualified individuals must have a four year college degree. An advanced degree would be a plus.
- Additionally, a minimum of 3 years progressively responsible senior level experience is required in developing and implementing advocacy campaigns, grassroots organizing, media, and environmental advocacy.
- Overall, a minimum 5 years of experience is required.
- Experience with water resources management or Chesapeake Bay policy would be a plus.
- Excellent communication and writing skills are required.
- Proven capacity to design, implement and modify a national campaign plan is necessary for qualified individuals.
- Ability to coordinate various levels of staff activities to meet program goals will also be necessary.

To apply: www.nwf.org/careergateway

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers Sought Statewide to Remove Invasive Plants

Volunteers are needed across the Commonwealth to help remove invasive plants that are wreaking havoc on Virginia's landscape. The Virginia Master Naturalists and the Virginia Native Plant Society are seeking help Saturday, May 2nd at locations throughout Virginia in the first ever Invasive Plant Removal Day.

"From kudzu to English Ivy to tree of heaven, there are dozens of invasive species that are causing both ecological and economical harm," said Michelle Prysby, Virginia Master Naturalist coordinator. "These invasive plants out-compete native species for the same resources, eventually harming trees, wildlife and water quality."

Invasive species are recognized nationally and locally as a major threat to healthy ecosystems. In Virginia alone, it is estimated that the cost of invasive species is \$1 Billion annually.

The Virginia Native Plant Society and the Virginia Master Naturalists are sponsoring this event. Activities are being coordinated locally, and interested people can learn more about how and where they can help by going to www.virginiamasternaturalist.org/invasives/index.html.

"Removing invasive plants and sowing native flora is a fantastic way to restore water quality and wildlife habitat in any natural area," said Prysby.

Locally the Master Naturalists and Native Plant Society are teaming to rid Chilton Woods in upper Lancaster County of invasive plants. Contact Paula Boundy at paula.boundy@va.metrocast.net for more information.

Got news, job postings, events, or other information to share? Want to brag about awards? Hear about something that would be of interest to members? Send them to charlene.talcott@dcr.virginia.gov

Please forward this to anyone that might be interested. Want to be included on the TREE mailings? Contact jtritz@vt.edu